

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 31227 01 OF 02 261519Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----015114 261531Z /42  
O 261509Z OCT 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0796  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 31227

EXDIS

LONDON FOR A/SY HOLBROOKE ONLY

E.O.11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PDIP VN US  
SUBJ: AMERICAN YACHT BRILLIG

REF: (A) STATE 255490;(B) PARIS 31059; (C) PARIS 31130

1. EMBOFF SAW SRV LIAISON OFFICER DO THANH AT 1200  
OCT 26 AND DELIVERED THE SIX POINT MESSAGE IN REF A.  
DO THANH TOOK CAREFUL NOTES AND SAID HE WOULD REPORT  
THIS LATEST APPROACH IMMEDIATELY TO HANOI.

2. DO THANH SAID THAT HANOI WAS HANDLING THIS MATTER  
WITH GREAT CARE BECAUSE OF THE NARCOTICS QUESTION. THEY  
HAD DISCOVERED OTHER THINGS (UNSPECIFIED BY HANOI,  
ACCORDING TO DO THANH) ABOARD THE YACHT WHICH INDICATED  
THAT THIS MATTER WAS OF GREATER IMPORTANCE THAN WOULD  
THE PRESENCE OF MERELY TEN CASES OF NARCOTICS. GIVEN  
THIS DELICATE PROBLEM, HANOI DID NOT WISH TO RESPOND  
PREMATURELY BEFORE THE INVESTIGATION WAS COMPLETED.  
ALTHOUGH IT WAS "A FACT" THAT NARCOTICS AND OTHER  
COMPROMISING THINGS WERE ABOARD THE YACHT, HANOI  
WISHED TO BE ABLE TO ARRIVE AT A FULL ACCOUNT OF WHAT THE  
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YACHT AND ITS CREW HAD BEEN DOING.

3. DO THANH SAID THAT HE HAD NOTED IN HIS PREVIOUS  
RESPONSE (REF B) "THIRD PARTIES" WOULD NOT BE GIVEN  
ACCESS TO THE CREW UNTIL THE INVESTIGATION WAS  
COMPLETED. AT THAT TIME IT WAS IN PARTICULAR A QUESTION  
OF THE FRENCH SENDING AN OFFICIAL TO SEE THEM, BUT HE

BELIEVES THAT THE ICRC WOULD EQUALLY BE CONSIDERED A "THIRD PARTY" AND HENCE THAT THE RESPONSE WOULD STILL BE THAT AT THIS TIME IT IS NOT OPPORTUNE. HE SAID WE COULD ALWAYS ASK THE RED CROSS, BUT WE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF HANOI REFUSED PERMISSION TO SEE THE CREW.

4. DO THANH REITERATED THAT THE BRILLING CREW WAS WELL LOGGED AND FED IN HO CHI MINHVILLE AND FAMILIES HAD NO REASON TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR HEALTH. HE NOTED THAT WE HAD REFERRED TO THEIR SENDING OR RECEIVING TELEGRAMS; HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO DATE HAD MENTIONED ONLY LETTERS. HANOI HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS TO BE USED FOR CORRESPONDING WITH THE CREW: SO NGOAI-VU (SERVICE DES AFFAIRES EXTERIEURES) HO CHI MINHVILLE. (NB: DO THANH PROVIDED DIACRITIC MARKS FOR THE VIETNAMESE WORDS, BUT WE PRESUME THAT LETTERS WITHOUT THEM WILL STILL GET THROUGH.)

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----015119 261534Z /42  
O 261509Z OCT 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0797  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 31227

EXDIS

5. EMBOFF STRESSED THE URGENCY OF A RESPONSE TO OUR SEVERAL REQUESTS, BUT DO THANH CONSTANTLY RETURNED TO THE NEED FOR A COMPLETE INVESTIGATION. DO THANH THOUGHT THAT THE WORSE THE ACTUAL NARCOTIC CASE APPEARED TO BE THE MORE PRUDENT WOULD BE HANOI'S APPROACH TO THE MATTER.

6. EMBOFF NOTED THAT CONLIRMATION OF THE DETENTION OF THE BRILLIG AND CREW HAD BEEN GIVEN BY THE SRV TO AFP IN HANOI SHORTLY BEFORE SRV EMBASSY PARIS (AND SRV MISSION

UN) WERE INFORMED. WE UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION ON ANY ALLEGED NARCOTICS ASPECTS BEFORE THE SRV RELEASED (OR LEAKED) THIS INFORMATION TO THE PRESS. DO THANH NOTED THE POINT.

7. COMMENT. DO THANH IS PROBABLY BEING TOLD A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THE MATTER THAN HE HAS PERMISSION TO TELL US-- FOR EXAMPLE HE PROBABLY KNOWS THAT THE "COMPROMISING THINGS" ABOARD THE YACHT INCLUDE "ABNORMAL" RADIO AND DIVING EQUIPMENT. WE THINK HE IS ACCURATELY PRESENTING A HANOI DECISION TO GET A FULL CASE, PROBABLY INCLUDING SIGNED STATEMENTS FROM THE CREW, BEFORE INFORMING US AND PROBABLY GOING PUBLIC ALSO WITH THE WHOLE AFFAIR, INCLUDING WHATEVER DETAILS ON ALLEGED DRUG ACTIVITIES  
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THEY CAN CONVINCINGLY PRESENT. DO THANH IS CERTAINLY AWARE THAT FAMILY, CONGRESSIONAL AND PRESS INTEREST IN THE CASE PUTS US -- AND HANOI -- IN A DIFFICULT POSITION, BUT HE HAS CLEARLY BEEN TOLD TO HOLD US OFF UNTIL AN OPEN AND SHUT CASE CAN BE PRODUCED.  
HARTMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 255490, 77 PARIS 31059, 77 PARIS 31130  
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**Subject:** AMERICAN YACHT BRILLIG  
**TAGS:** PDIP, VN, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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